FBIS DAILY REPORT

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BAR ASSOCIATION REQUESTS END OF STATE OF SIEGE

PY122156 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 12 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] (NA)--The Argentine Federation of Bar Associations yesterday called for the immediate repealing of the state of siege saying that, after 6 years, the causes that brought about this exceptional measure have ceased to exist.

The group also announced it intends to ask President Roberto Viola for the freedom of 11 lawyers who are at the disposal of the executive branch, and for information about another 33 missing lawyers.

A special commission is now drafting a demand for the repeal of the state of siege "so that the country may return to constitutional normality."

A member of one of these commissions, lawyer Adolfo Roca said in Mar del Plata yesterday that "it is inconceivable that the 11 lawyers are still in prison when there is no justification for the state of siege and when there are no legal proceedings (against them) at all."

Statement by Political Leaders

PY122102 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 11 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] (NA)--Leaders of several political organizations who have grouped themselves together in what they call the Forum for the Defence of Sovereignty, National Heritage and Democracy yesterday agreed that the strength of the current progress of military rule "has run out" and called for the repealing of the state of siege, freedom for those detained "without charges or due process of the law", the clearing of the "situation of the missing" and return to constitutional normality.

A statement released by the "forum" says that Argentina is going through "one of the most difficult and dramatic" moments in its history and goes on to say that over the past 5 years the military government "has exercised the total exclusion of outside opinions" and concluded that the military rulers had thus "threatened the independent development of the nation."

The 82-line statement said that the "school drop out rate is rising as students see their hopes of continuing their education dashed; numerous Argentines are still under detention without (formal) charges or court proceedings against them, while many people wait in anguish for an answer to their reiterated requests as to the fate of their missing relatives."

Represented at a dinner on Thursday night at the end of which the statement was made public were the Justicialist (Peronist) Party, the Intransigent Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Communist Party, the Popular Conservative Party, the Socialist Party and the Leftist Popular Front.

The 60 people who participated in the political gathering were required to sign a note presented to them by police in which the politicians admitted that they realized that there were laws in effect which prohibit political activity.

BRIEFS

JOINT ANTARCTIC CAMPAIGN CLOSES--Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (TELAM)--The transport ship Bahia Aguirre, commanded by Capt Ricardo Davila, today arrived at the port of this city after carrying out the last stage of the 1980-81 Antarctic campaign implemented jointly by units of the army, navy, air force and the National Antarctic Bureau. It has been reported that the icebreaker Almirante Irizar, carrying on board the commander of the joint Antarctic campaign, Capt Cesar Trombetta, will arrive in Buenos Aires during the second half of April. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0230 GMT 3 Apr 81 PY]

NEWSMEN INTERVIEW M-19 LEADER TOLEDO PLATA

PA111746 Paris AFP in Spanish 2314 GMT 9 Apr 81

[Text] Bogota, 9 Apr (AFP)--Carlos Toledo Plata, a physician who is one of the leaders of the extremist 19 April (M-19) Movement, today took full blame for the failure of the guerrilla operation launched by the M-19 in southern Colombia in March.

The guerrilla leader answered newsmen's questions for 20 minutes at La Picota Prison, where he appeared before a military court that is trying some 100 of his comrades.

Initially, Toledo Plata sent greetings to the Colombian people and the M-19 membership, stating that his stay in prison is temporary and can be considered a setback in the struggle, which will continue despite all obstacles.

He admitted that an error in tactics, for which he accepted full blame, permitted his unit to be surrounded by the army in Narino Department. He revealed that he decided to break through the cordon by going toward Ecuador rather than sacrifice the lives of his comrades by attempting to break through in Colombian territory farther to the north.

"That was a questionable decision and the Colombian people, the top leadership and our chief, Comrade Jaime Bateman, will analyze and judge it," Toledo Plata said.

He added that he had made his decision even though "we knew that the armies of the two countries have agreements covering such cases..." "There is a Reagan plan in Ecuador and Colombia as well as in Latin America under which the armies are the ones that control the situation and make the decisions," he added. He then emphasized bitterly: "The Ecuadorean Army handed us over."

Asked if it is not a little "childish" for the M-19 chiefs themselves, both he and Rosemberg Pabon--Commander Uno, who last year commanded the occupation of the Dominican Embassy--to be heading the operations in the south, Toledo said: "The leaders have to be at the head in combat. That is their duty."

He immediately rejected a suggestion that he might have committed the same errors as Camilo Torres or Che Guevara. He said: "I don't think comparisons can be made. The situation is different. We are at war. We commit errors and in every era errors are going to be made. The errors will serve as experience for the comrades who are still fighting and those who are going to fight. The main lesson is that one must always keep on fighting and always take the initiative."

Toledo said Jaime Bateman will soon announce the M-19's new high command.

Toledo Plata said later with regard to the case of writer Garcia Marquez, whom the army reportedly tried to implicate in the shipment of arms, apparently from Cuba, that "there is a plan against writers, against intellectuals, a plan to silence the voices of democrats." "Garcia Marquez," the subversive leader said, is a world-renowned personality who struggles for human rights, who has publically described the serious economic, political and social problems being experienced in the country.

Asked about statements by some guerrillas who were arrested to the effect that they are remorseful about their revolutionary adventure, Toledo said: "That is their opinion. It is actions that matter, not statements."

In response to a question on amnesty, he said emphatically: "You know there has been a plan for surrender that has no meaning for the fighters. At the present, all possibility of dialogue is ruled out, although we remain open to it because we believe the Colombian people have to find a way."

Asked whether any of his relatives have been arrested in connection with his capture or whether any government officials or members of the army are M-19 activists, Toledo said only: "I do not know."

Finally, he declined to answer a question as to whether he considered himself a successful or a frustrated revolutionary. "It doesn't matter how I feel," he said. "I am only one member of a revolutionary organization. As a man, I believe I have contributed as much as I could. We have made errors, faced difficulties, but we are always in the front line of combat."

The insurgent physician admitted that his organization has five fronts in various parts of Colombia at present, and that they are each made up of several columns. On their activities at present, he said he could say nothing more "than what is said in the press."

The M-19 leader was dressed in sports clothes and was clean-shaven, with graying hair that showed signs of the different dyes he has used to evade the secret services in the past few years. He appeared to be in good health, unlike his appearance in photographs taken 1 month ago at the Cabal Battalion in Ipiales, on the border with Ecuador, where he had been held along with 76 of his comrades captured in battle or returned by the Ecuadorean authorities.

When Toledo entered the court, his comrades stood up and sang the national anthem and one female guerrilla gave him a bouquet of red carnations.

The session had been postponed at the request of Col Augusto Pradilla, the prosecutor, who claimed to be ill, but the postponement was interpreted as an act of courtesy to the press.

Toledo courteously greeted Col Rafael Martin, president of the military court, and requested 24 hours in which to choose a defense attorney.

A slight incident, possibly due to a joke that led to a misunderstanding, marred this first news conference with Toledo Plata. Four newswomen from television stations, in their eagerness to be first to talk with the M-19 leader, asked police Colonel Pena, commander of the prison, to allow them to enter before their male competitors. The officer said he would, if they would tell him what they would give him in return for letting them have a "scoop."

The newswomen reported the matter to Colonel Martin, who immediately notified the director general of police. The latter apparently initiated an investigation into the matter.

ARMY ARRESTS 10 GUERRILLAS, SEIZES WEAPONS

PA120426 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2248 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Text] Bogota, 11 Apr (EFE)--The Colombian Army today arrested 10 guerrillas and confiscated many weapons in operations in the northwest, a military spokesman reported today.

Automatic weapons, grenade launchers, a mine, batteries, grenades and a large amount of ammunition were confiscated in Valle del Cauca, Guajira and Santander.

In Barranquilla, along the northern coast, army soldiers arrested three guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the second most important guerrilla movement in the country.

In Narino Province, along the Ecuadorean border, military patrols surprised and attacked a 19 April Movement (M-19) column. The number of casualties is unknown.

Three other FARC guerrillas were arrested in El Retiro, along the northern coastline, about 879 km from the capital.

The military source stated that the operations are going on in several parts of the country following the breaking of the M-19 weeks ago.

COSTA RICA

FINANCE MINISTER GIVES REASONS FOR RESIGNATION

PA131606 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Finance Minister Hernan Saenz Jimenez resigned this weekend because of a disagreement with President Carazo, following an agreement between businessmen and the government on the payment of foreign exchange.

On presenting his resignation, the finance minister said that the fact that the government will permit flexibility in the payment of foreign exchange jeopardizes an agreement reached with the IMF and prevents a prompt solution of the monetary problem being faced by the country.

In this regard, President Carazo said: I know very well that any change, even one as slight as the one to which I consented, hampers our arrangements with the IMF and in general makes it more difficult to correct deficiencies. Nevertheless, he said, it is my duty to maintain harmony among Costa Ricans and promote joint efforts that lead to a common objective, particularly in moments of difficulty for the world, for our region and for Costa Rica.

Your resignation means the loss of one of my most valuable aides in the government, the president said to Saenz Jimenez. During the 3 years in which we worked together, I came to value your great technical and professional ability, your patriotism, your intelligence and your great personal qualities.

Costa Rica will realize that you have been instrumental in the structural change that is being carried out in the country and to which I have committed my greatest efforts, since in the future it will be the only means of eliminating the problems that have caused us Costa Ricans to undergo repeated crisis in the past.

Thank you very much for your valuable cooperation, President Carazo said in concluding his message to Saenz Jimenez.

In his letter of resignation, Saenz Jimenez said that the decisions adopted by the government last week make the present economic situation in the country unmanageable. I must express deep concern over the changes in economic policy adopted by the government and the Central Bank. Regarding the handling of the foreign exchange reserves, the changes will imply a greater cost to the bank, thus making it impossible to adopt an acceptable loan program for the productive sector that will be compatible with a stabilizing monetary policy.

A change in the handling of the foreign exchange reserves will cause an important and critical delay in the formulation of an agreement with the IMF. The suspension of the increases in export taxes will have the same effect and will also undermine the efforts being made by the government in the area of public financing. Moreover, the resumption of a single rate of exchange before the Central Bank is in a sufficiently strong position to do so makes it impossible to maintain the colon at a rational and stable level, Saenz Jimenez said.

In the opinion of Saenz Jimenez, who will remain finance minister until 15 April, the country has for many years been subject to increasing imbalances caused by the production structure, which with time have caused [word indistinct] deficits, increased the foreign trade deficit, perpetuated a tax system that is unjust because it has accentuated the inflexibility of public expenditures and rapidly increased our foreign debt.

Protectionism through high tariffs, combined with incentives for importing raw materials, has caused a dangerous decline in the economic and technical development of other sectors, which have become stagnant.

Saenz Jimenez warned that if the government should decide to confirm, unrealistically, the application of rules that belong in the past, it would be committing the serious error of undermining the stability of the democratic regime. This would definitely mean the perpetuation of an economic structure that would have only one result in the future: Guaranteeing the well-being of a few to the detriment of the great national majority, who would be condemned to irreversible poverty.

Saenz Jimenez added: I cannot fail to emphasize the great sense of responsibility and understanding that has been demonstrated by labor leaders regarding the problems besetting the country. He added: The decisions adopted by the government seriously undermine the moral and technical authority of government, particularly my authority as head of the Finance Ministry, that would have made it possible to promote the process of deep structural change and immediate financial stability for which we have worked so hard.

With Saenz Jimenez' resignation, the financial sector will be directed and coordinated by Vice President Jose Miguel Alfaro Rodriguez and, beginning on 26 April, the Finance Ministry will be headed by Carlos Munoz Vega.

Vice President Alfaro will immediately take charge of financial commitments with international organizations in cooperation with the Central Bank. Munoz Vega and all the organizations in the financial sector will maintain close contact with the IMF to continue the current negotiations for an agreement.

Leonel Baruch, the deputy finance minister, also presented his resignation. In doing so, he accused the government of showing excessive favor to privileged groups to the detriment of the most unprotected sectors of our society. Since the finance minister presented his resignation, I also resign irrevocably because I have worked with him as a team with the same objectives, Leonel Baruch said in closing. His resignation will become effective on 15 April.

EL SALVADOR

ARMED FORCES CONFISCATE WAR MATERIEL; MORALE HIGH

PA140021 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1734 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] An army spokesman has reported that during an operation to find subversive camps, the armed forces were able to confiscate war materiel and articles used to manufacture bombs.

The armed forces spokesman said that in Conchagua Hill, La Union Department, two completely burned bodies were found in a cave. The armed forces also found an assembled M72A2BB anti-tank rocket launcher, a Chinese grenade, a fuse, an FAL rifle No 11310, 2 FAL clips, a knapsack, 216 (FM59) cartridges, a canvas [word indistinct] gun and a brand new rocket launcher.

He added that in the village of El Roblar in Guazapa, they found a folder with maps of the area, a radio transmitter, a standard radio monitor, an UHF radio, a radio (?battery) charger, a Morse keyboard, a small case with radio spare parts and a .22-cal rifle.

In Milingo, Suchitoto, two barrels of chlorate to manufacture bombs were found. In Las Lajas Canton, Santa Ana, in a drainage ditch on the road to Cerro Verde, 3 claymore mines, 26 homemade contact bombs and 4 12-volt batteries which apparently would have been used to set off the explosives were found.

All of these articles were found thanks to the reports of private citizens and residents of the areas who telephoned the armed forces.

Army Morale High

PA140045 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1739 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The High Combat Morale of Our Army"]

[Text] As a result of the operation the armed forces are carrying out in large areas of central and eastern El Salvador, they have confiscated valuable military materiel which is considered to be very modern. Experts are analyzing this armament to determine the damage that it could have caused to the civilian population if the terrorists had had the opportunity to use it before the army took the offensive.

The confiscated armament is proof of the communist intervention in our country. As a result of the confiscation, the armed forces are guarding the places that were used to bring in the war supplies secretly for the subversives. The armed forces not only have the arms traffic under control but also the flow of dollars that the leaders of the Salvadoran terrorist groups received. Now that the flow of weapons and ammunition has been cut off, the groups that presented strong opposition in some areas of central and eastern El Salvador have been left isolated from all possible aid from their comrades abroad.

In its cleanup operations against the terrorists, the Salvadoran Army is showing its great professional capacity by having reduced to a minimum the threat which the heavily armed terrorist groups directed by foreign mercenaries had represented. Despite the modern weapons that the subversives received from their comrades, the Salvadoran Army has swept away the strong opposition without the need of foreign military aid. This shows the Salvadoran people the high professional capacity of their armed forces and the great fighting spirit of our soldiers.

Both officers and troops have high morale and are involved in the pursuit of the last groups of terrorists, who are fleeing to border areas in a desperate attempt to save their lives. The terrorist groups have lost valuable war materiel and many comrades have fallen in the face of the crushing advance of the infantry units, supported by the air force, which control the escape routes and the places where the terrorists are trying unsuccessfully to regroup.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS GUERRILLA SUCCESSES

FMLN War Bulletin

PA140401 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command war bulletin No 92]

[Text] The Information Section of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command reports to the Salvadoran people and the world:

1. Actions reported by the Francisco Sanchez eastern front: A group of FMLN fighters used barricades to close off the coastal highway between the cities of El Transito and El Delirio, a heavily populated rural area of Usulutan Department. In the operation, telephone lines connecting the main cities of San Miguel and Usulutan Departments were cut. A high-tension electricity pylon was dynamited, leaving the area without electric power for a few hours. There were no clashes with the puppet army since it did not enter the operations area.

In Morazan Department, 160 km to the northeast, the guerrillas blocked traffic on the road to the northern zone linking the cities of San Fernando, Perquin, Torola and Jocoaitique.

2. Report of the Modesto Ramirez central front, Guazapa-Suchitoto zone, Aguilares: Since 1974 this zone has been an area of conflict, according tothe army. This region is now a heroic bastion of resistance against the genocidal regime.

[Words indistinct] an active resistance which we implement force us to carry out tactical withdrawals, so we are frequently exercising military control and carrying out organizational work in (?new areas). Our action is not only military; (?the tasks) include education, health, literary work and fundamentally political tasks. (?This forces us) to build popular power with rotation through different places and areas of control. The survival of political control and the operation of the militias, popular committees, schools and all the political action of the FMLN are always guaranteed.

The guerrillas are mobile; the people stay in one place. The strength of the revolution lies in the people. [Words indistinct]. Therefore, the people are always where the enemy is located. [passage indistinct]

In (?Aguilares), 14 km north of Guazapa, in San Salvador Department, a harassment operation was carried out against the military garrison. The confrontation lasted 20 minutes. There were no reports of casualties.

In El Roblar, the army unleashed a rain of shrapnel with artillery. There were no casualties among the population.

This [word indistinct], encirclement of the Guazapa area has been in effect for the past 10 days and the puppet army has yet to issue a detailed report of its casualties, the result of the actions and above all, the casualties among the population.

In [words indistinct] in the suburbs of the city of Suchitoto, the (?militia) forces [words indistinct] agitation units and then withdrew in an orderly manner without any casualties. The puppet army sustained two wounded.

This morning in San Pedro Perulapan a group of FMLN fighters began to attack enemy garrisons in the region. During this activity, no casualties were reported. In Cinquera there was a clash between FMLN militiamen and members of the civil defense, ORDEN [Nationalist Democratic Organization]. We are unaware of the number of enemy casualties. Our companeros withdrew without sustaining any casualties.

3. Actions in the metropolitan zone: today in the city of Mejicanos at the end of 5th Avenue North, a group of FMLN [word indistinct], after asking the people near the Astor Theater to leave, destroyed it with powerful explosives that [word indistinct] the whole city.

In the center of San Salvador, near the El Camino Real Hotel and the National City Bank, members of the Death Squad cold-bloodedly murdered a young man as he was entering a restaurant. These criminals were in a vehicle without license plates. They had been ambushed 1 hour before in Ciudad Delgado and sustained two casualties. In their search for the militiamen, they found the youth and without even asking questions they machine-gunned him to death with impunity. This occurred [words indistinct] the bank guards who pretended they did not see anything and before the guards of the center of the city.

The military-Christian Democratic junta and its ballyhoo amnesty:

[Words indistinct] The discredited amnesty of Sergeant Duarte and the puppet army. We will probably be surprised by another generous extension. The truth is that the FMLN and the people have not asked for the amnesty. The political scientists believe that the granting of amnesty is the exclusive power of he who holds power. The junta does not hold power. The people in arms are the ones who hold power and therefore they will not receive or request pardon from anyone while they have arms in their hands. The amnesty is another failure of the unsuccessful junta.

El Salvador will win! United to fight until the final victory! Revolution or death, we shall win!

Army Casualties

PA132108 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Reports received from San Francisco Gotera, Morazan Department, say that the area residents affirm that the city's hospital has been closed to the civilian population because all the beds have been occupied by commando troops wounded in clashes. Also, a large number of dead soldiers have been transported to San Francisco Gotera by helicopter.

In San Francisco Gotera and its surrounding areas people make fun of the government, which has tried to make them believe that the army has wiped out the guerrillas [words indistinct] Radio Venceremos, when in fact the dead and wounded are members of the army and Radio Venceremos is heard every day.

Also, many soldiers have been seen in San Francisco Gotera buying clothes because they will be dismissed from the army very soon. At the same time, the national army is conducting [word indistinct] recruiting operations in this area of Morazan Department.

MNR ANALYZES COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC, POLITICAL CRISES

PA140123 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] The following report shows clearly the country's desperate political and economic situation. This report has been published by the National Revolutionary Movement, MNR, the Salvadoran social democratic party. The document analyzes the crises the military-Christian Democratic junta has been suffering continuously.

According to the document, the Salvadoran economic crisis has been completely politicized. All attempts to overcome the crisis have been half-hearted and show an enormous lack of the popular support essential for any kind of economic recovery. The MNR discusses the uselessness of the junta's new economic policy, based on concepts which have not posed any true alternative to solve the crisis.

The closing of enterprises, the loss of markets, unemployment, and the increasing lack of foreign exchange, the uncontrollable capital drain and the businessmen's refusal to return their capital from abroad, thereby affecting local investment, are the outstanding points of the economic crisis, which resembles that suffered by El Salvador in 1930.

The document also states that in 1980 the gross national product showed a greater rate of growth slowdown than in 1979, for a decrease of 1.4 percent. In 1980 the decrease was 17.7 percent. During the 1970's the Salvadoran economy showed a growth rate decrease of 21.8 percent. The estaimated 1981 growth rate decrease will be not more than 19.4 percent and not less than 11.1 percent. The crisis worsens because the private enterprise sector has stated that it will not participate in government economic projects except as observers. Meanwhile, the big landowners have decided not to increase their crops due to the political situation which endangers their capital.

In desperation the junta plans to try out measures which necessarily will fail, like the fact that the new housing bank will begin operations with capital garnered from taking 13 and 14 percent of the bank employees' salaries, who will be forced to buy stock so that the powerful construction companies will start a new cycle of speculation with housing. Article 14 of the law on nationalizing of banks will have to be amended. According to the article, banking institutions would distribute their profits in shares of stocks among employees.

The MNR states that Christian democracy is increasingly approaching the day when it will be expelled from the repressive paradise which it took over through force and political opportunism and in which it has remained, justifying the murder of more than 17,000 Salvadorans.

The document refers to the oligarchic army's inability to achieve the initiative of greater (?mobility) that will permit it to fight the guerrilla actions of the popular army. The fact that after the military-political offensive of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front, the army forcedly recruited more than 2,000 youths shows that it has sustained many casualties and that its fighting ability with so many recruits will not be as effective. All of this shows the deep chaos that is rapidly affecting the junta.

In regions such as the east and west, many people have joined the popular army and it has become strong in many towns. Meanwhile, supply problems are being adequately solved in important geographic areas in the hands of the revolutionaries.

PRIVATE SECTOR OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT NOTED

PA131753 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] The difficult economic crisis being experienced by the Salvadoran regime, despite the injection of dollars into the economy by U.S. imperialism, was clearly demonstrated on 9 April when the coffeegrowers issued a public protest in a paid advertisement.

The coffeegrowers stressed the urgent need for resources to improve agricultural production. The coffeegrowers, whose ranks include a vast majority of the Salvadoran oligarchy, agree with the regime on a general plan to violently halt the popular opposition, but they differ with the regime's economic policy because of its inability to solve the crisis.

In addition, the transportation sector today accused Economic Ministry officials of being corrupt and challenged them to participate in a television program in which it would prove its accusations.

The transportation sector entered into an open conflict with the regime after the increase of [word indistinct] was decreed in the latter part of March. [Word indistinct] the government of accusing all those who defend their rights of being members of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, which is the government's best way of getting rid of its apparent enemies.

PEASANT CONGRESS REPORTS LAND REFORM STAGNANT

PA110352 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 10 Apr 81 p 3, 33

[Excerpt] The stagnation of the land reform process was reported yesterday by the first congress of the Salvadoran Communal Union.

During the closing ceremony, it was stated that, while some cooperatives are on their way to becoming millionaires, the large mass of the peasants are facing serious problems in earning their living every day, either because their cooperatives are not receiving the needed assistance, the agriculture and livestock development bank shelves their credit requests, those cooperatives have fallen into the hands of the old farm administrators or bosses or because a state technician is acting as a new boss.

"We understand," the final document issued by the first congress says, "that every process has its stages but we must also understand that in a nation such as ours the time between those stages must not be long."

It was confirmed during the land reform congress that the union supports those changes.

GUATEMALA

EL IMPARCIAL: UK PLAN FOR BELIZE NEOCOLONIALIST

PA131906 Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 3 Apr 81 p2

[Editorial: "Great Britain's Ploy or Game Revealed"]

[Text] We have repeatedly explained to the public, not once, but many times, the true meaning and significance of the "decolonization" operations being carried out by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which have justly been described by analysts of international politics as "neocolonialism." In the case of Belize--because of the status of the people located in that part of Guatemalan territory and the circumstances under which their independence has been promoted--this ploy or game of the British becomes more obvious.

It is surprising that at the United Nations, where conventional politics and possible compromises sometimes overcome scruples, thereby overshadowing the ideas of justice and equity and even juridical evidence, members have not wished to listen to Guatemala's reasons and arguments regarding its territorial claim, and it is irritating that with Machiavellian cynicism, biased or ignorant voices should have sought, by juggling dialectics, to give a "colonialist" image to Guatemala's just demand while the British appear on the scene as romantic defenders of the self-determination of peoples in order to protect their own interests in the territory that they are holding, thereby strengthening their influence in the Central American and Caribbean region.

We have reiterated to the saturation point that the apparent independence of the people of Belize--an ethnic culture whose personality we recognize and with which we could easily coexist--is diminished in practice by a lack of resources sufficient to sustain a sovereign state, and by the United Kingdom's intention to use that shortcoming as an argument for remaining in weaker countries which it protects, it is true, though it maintains its imperial influence. The independence that it sponsors always leaves the small states moving in the economic orbit of the pound sterling and in the political orbit of the British Commonwealth.

On signing the "bases of understanding" with Guatemala, since our country would not permit the independence of Belize to be decided unilaterally, the United Kingdom did not hide its determination to hold a "constitutional conference" in London with an eye toward the independence of the people of that territory, and we are now faced with a "draft constitution for an independent Belize"--in the free translation prepared by the Belize office of the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry, the text of which corroborates the comments and interpretations that we have repeatedly pointed out.

The draft, prepared with the support of the present Belizean Government and with London's approval, provides for the existence of a "governor general of Belize" (article 16), "who must be a citizen of Belize appointed by the queen (we suppose there will come a time when it will be a king) as her representative in Belize (in other words, he will be an appendage of the British monarchy) after consultation with the prime minister (who is, in turn, appointed by the governor, with the latter choosing a leader of the majority party who is a member of the Chamber of Representatives or of the Senate), and will serve in the post with the approval of the queen" (that is, the sovereign of the United Kingdom).

"When this post (that of the first governor general) is vacant or the incumbent cannot perform his duties due to absence or other cause, the queen may appoint a person to fulfill his functions." According to article 17, "the governor general will act in accordance for the issue or subject" (outside of his legal functions); however, this same governor (following the advice of the prime minister, whom he has also appointed) "will appoint, from among the members of the Chamber or the Senate those ministers to be responsible for any government activity, including responsibility for any department of government."

A deputy prime minister and a deputy finance minister must also be members of the Chamber of Representatives. In brief, the cabinet, "the principal instrument of policy," "will consist of the prime minister and those ministers that may be appointed by the governor general."

According to article 30, "there will be an opposition leader appointed by the governor general," who will be that member of the Chamber who, "in the opinion of the governor general, is best qualified to lead a majority of those members who do not support the government." He will leave his post upon leaving the Chamber of Representatives "or when his appointment is revoked by the governor general," who will "use his own judgment in appointing the prime minister and opposition leader and in revoking those appointments" (article 36).

Through a representative, then, the queen (or the king when the monarch is a male) will govern independent Belize, which in other ways will be treated as a member of the British Commonwealth. All this would appear justified because of a sparse population, a not-well-integrated society, limited economic resources and a limited state of development, but it cannot be presented as true independence. On the contrary, it reiterates Belize's dependence and ties it strongly to Great Britain, which is why the latter is in such a hurry to conclude its process of "neocolonization." So much for that.

U.S. COMPANIES DISCOVER PETROLEUM IN PETEN

PA111324 Paris AFP in Spanish 0305 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Apr (AFP)--The existence of petroleum in Peten Department, in the northern part of the country, was confirmed this morning by the Guatemalan mining and hydrocarbons secretary, who described the test made by the U.S. Texaco and Amoco Companies as "successful."

In a news conference this morning, officials revealed the details of the discovery near the Mexican border. It was explained that the companies drilled a test well 2,500 meters deep with positive results and that the well's initial production should average 400-500 barrels per day.

It was also said that other test wells will be drilled to confirm the positive results of the first tests.

Mines and hydrocarbons officials said they were confident that more petroleum may be found at different levels in the same well.

Guatemala is now producing some 7,000 barrels of crude per day, which it exports almost totally to the United States because there are no refineries in the country.

So far the known oil fields are in Alta Verapaz Department, in the northern part of the country, but considerably distant from the fields prospected by the Texaco and Amoco.

The two companies began operations in Guatemala in 1978 and have obtained authorization to explore and exploit a sector of almost 200,000 hectares. So far they have invested $8 million in prospecting for petroleum and building roads.

However, drilling was begun last 15 October, and according to reports two other wells will be drilled in the same area and additional tests will be made at the well already in production.

Government circles were very optimistic over the discovery, especially because it proves that there is petroleum in other areas besides those already producing small amounts of crude.

EGP COMMUNIQUE REPORTS ACTIONS AGAINST ARMY

PA102140 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Apr 81

[Text] The Guatemalan People's Guerrilla Army [EGP] inflicted 23 casualties and executed 17 lackeys and traitors of the repressive forces of Guatemala in the last few weeks. An EGP communique released in Havana said that during ambushes carried out with the use of explosives, it lost three revolutionary fighters. The communique said that the actions took place in the Departments of Huehuetenango and El Quiche in western Guatemala, in Chimaltenango in central Guatemala and in Escuintla in the south and were carried out by the Ho Chi Min, Ernesto Guevara, (?Otto Rene) Castillo and Luis Augusto Turcios guerrilla fronts.

HONDURAS

RUMORS CIRCULATE OF IMMINENT CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

PA131746 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The report of a possible coup d'etat is the main topic in top echelons of the political parties registered to participate in the upcoming November elections.

It was learned yesterday that the leaders of the political parties held an emergency meeting after Miguel Andonie Fernandez, national delegate of the Innovation and Unit Party [PINU], warned about a possible change in the Presidency of the Republic. The rumors circulating in the Constituent Assembly range from reports on the eventual arrival of a civilian as new president to the task of suggesting several possible replacements for Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia.

Some deputies feel that a change in the nation's leadership is unnecessary because we are only 8 months away from the day when Hondurans will go to the polls. Others feel that the institutional crisis in the executive branch should be overcome as soon as possible because the masses are suffering from inflation and hunger stemming from an obvious official inability to find an adequate solution for these serious problems.

A deputy who asked not to be identified told the newspaper LA PRENSA that the replacement of Paz Garcia would represent a coup d'etat against the people's highest representation because the liberal and nationalist deputies were the ones who appointed Paz Garcia, in his capacity as head of the armed forces, as constitutional president of the republic.

Decree No 2 of the Constituent Assembly says in one of its paragraphs that General Paz Garcia, as president of the military junta and chief of the armed forces, has kept the junta's promises and fulfilled the duties of the armed forces by making truly free elections possible and promoting the installation of the National Constitutent Assembly in a climate of harmony and peace, Article 1 of this document gives a vote of confidence to the armed forces of the nation and a vote of recognition to the military junta by appointing Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, in his capacity as chief of the armed forces, president of the republic until the new constitutional president elected by the people's direct vote takes over, as prescribed in the constitution being drafted in the assembly.

According to LA PRENSA, the truth of this political moment is that the situation is uncertain and the armed forces themselves gave cause to all kinds of commentaries when the top military leaders met at the Cachamata general headquarters. Another significant detail is that Paz Garcia has been represented by Army Gen Mario Chinchilla Carcamo, chief of the general staff, in the most recent official military ceremonies.

A possible guess as to what will happen may be derived from the Honduran Air Force's 50th anniversary celebration to which General Paz Garcia and retired Generals Osvaldo Lopez Arellano and Juan Alberto Melgar Castro, former chiefs of state, have been invited. This event will be held at the Honduran Air Force headquarters in Tegucigalpa tomorrow and the possible absence of General Paz Garcia would confirm the warning of the PINU presidential candidate.

However, everybody is sure about one thing: A possible change in the Presidency of the Republic would not alter the electoral calendar approved by the Constituent Assembly so that the country can return to the de jure system.

LA PRENSA also reports that another rumor that circulated in the capital during the weekend is that the replacement of Paz Garcia could be carried out by using a formula separating the functions he has been carrying out, that is, the Presidency of the Republic and the leadership of the armed forces. Since it is assumed that there has been a previous agreement with the political leaders, the measure would not be reason for an institutional crisis because Col Jose Cristobal Diaz Garcia, former government minister and manager of HONDUTEL [Honduran Telecommunications], would be appointed president. He does not pose many problems within military circles and is respected by the officers. This appointment would leave Gen Mario Enrique Chinchilla Carcamo as chief of the armed forces. At any rate, the change is imminent and the citizens feel that the measure may be healthy if it is carried out to improve the public administration.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL TO CALL ELECTIONS BY 29 MAY

PA100317 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1145 GMT 9 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The terms of the elections process were established yesterday in the National Constituent Assembly.

The National Electoral Tribunal will call the Honduran people to elections by 29 May at the latest. The municipal mayors who are elected will be sworn in on 25 January 1982. The president-elect will be sworn in on 27 January.

Dr Roberto Suazo Cordoba, president of the National Constituent Assembly, was called yesterday by Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, provisional president of the republic, to discuss the election date approved yesterday by the National Constituent Assembly.

Armed Forces Assurances

PA131952 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1547 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Armed Forces will guarantee future elections at the highest level and will vigorously combat terrorism, several officers said last weekend during ceremonies held to celebrate the anniversary of two batallions.

Chief of Staff Gen Mario Chinchilla Carcamo said that "the armed forces are prepared to combat terrorism whenever the circumstances so demand because it is a scourge that sows pain, panic, confusion, instability, chaos and death and its instigators are Attilas of the 20th century.

Chinchilla Carcamo spoke to the troops of a special urban counterinsurgency batallion, whom he described as having top technical qualifications obtained during more than 1 and 1/2 years of vigorous training.

"If it were up to the Honduran people with their devotion to peace, these special batallions would not have been created. However, terrorism, financed from abroad, and the enemies of freedom and democracy have obliged us to have them," the officer said.

Chinchilla Carcamo also said that it is not the armed forces' budget, but the people's right to live in peace that must be defended.

For his part, Col Rigoberto Regalado Lara, during a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the 1st Infantry Battalion that he commands, gave assurances that a free electoral process will be guaranteed so that "democracy will prevail."

He said that these elections will demonstrate that Hondurans are a peaceful people who love democracy. In addition, the doors will be closed to activists with strange ideas.

The colonel said: "We must enjoy our freedom and educate ourselves to make it last, because only one who is free loves freedom and we Hondurans are free."

NICARAGUA

OFFICIALS VIEW U.S., SOMOZIST THREATS TO REVOLUTION

Deputy Defense Minister

PA122017 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Apr 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] Brigade Commander Joaquin Cuadra, deputy minister of defense and chief of staff of the Sandinist People's Army, gave an extensive interview to the magazine PATRIA LIBRE, whose latest issue began to circulate yesterday.

In this interview, Commander Cuadra discusses in detail the dangers that loom over Nicaragua and discloses some previously unknown information on the activities of Somozist bands abroad and their direct links to imperialism.

The following is a portion of the interview:

Imperialist Efforts To Neutralize the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN)

[Question] Can you recall some steps taken by the imperialists and the reactionaries to try to neutralize the Nicaraguan people's struggles for freedom and to prevent the victory of the FSLN before 19 July 1979?

[Answer] "This has been manifested and expressed in different ways in our history, according to the differing circumstance."

"During the revolutionary struggle against the dictatorship, the imperialists, foreseeing the possibility of our triumph, made every effort to support the Somozist military dictatorship by arming it and creating new units like the Basic Infantry Training School (EEBI)."

"They later staged innumerable political maneuvers to neutralize the FSLN, then plotted with Somoza in an attempt to establish in Nicaragua what we defined as Somozism without Somoza."

"In other words, the plan was to remove the figure of the dictator, who served as an axis to unify all the democratic forces in our country, and thereby neutralize the FSLN's chances of winning political power."

"Through the skill of our vanguard and the combative vigor of our people, these maneuvers were defeated and on 19 July the popular triumph of our revolution was achieved."

Since then, the imperialists have devised new strategies to neutralize the revolution over the medium or long term, knowing our critical economic situation, as well as the many social problems that we inherited from Somozism."

The Present Imperialist Maneuvers

[Question] What is your assessment of the present situation regarding imperialist maneuvers against the revolution?

[Answer] "In his latest lecture, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce was quite eloquent and emphatic as regards imperialist maneuvers against the revolutionary process."

"However, the information we have received overtly and by other means indicates that there is a strong tendency on the part of the imperialists and reactionary forces to take advantage of certain circumstances to introduce certain military elements into their maneuvers. Therefore, we firmly believe that a military aggression will be launched against our country in the short term."

"The efforts to train mercenaries and Somozist guardsmen in camps in Florida, Honduras and Guatemala are known throughout the world."

"We also know of efforts being made to unite all the reactionary forces and murderers who scattered abroad after the overthrow of the dictatorship."

"That is another element shown to us by the accelerated steps being taken abroad to prepare the conditions from the material point of view by uniting and massing the forces."

[Question] How are the forces being amassed?

[Answer] "We have learned that some 600 men have already left the United States to gather in different parts of Honduras. These facts, added to the political propaganda campaign promoted officially by the governments of that country and of Honduras, to us obviously constitute preparations for an eventual attack on our country."

"One cannot otherwise interpret the fact that the Honduran legislature has permitted and approved laws allowing troops of other countries to pass through Honduran territory; the fact that Honduran Army troops are allowed to carry out missions in other countries and that foreigners are allowed to join the Honduran Army."

"We cannot interpret in any other way the preparation and massing of people, the provisioning, the logistical preparations, in conjunction with a campaign against the revolution that sells the idea that Nicaragua is the center of destabilization of the area, a campaign which seeks to involve us in the development of revolutions in El Salvador and Guatemala while at the same time preparing the conditions or legal framework for the launching of an eventual aggression by an undetermined number of forces, including even the Honduran Army. To us, this overall preparation of conditions at the international level coincide with a crisis created by the imperialists domestically by utilizing the difficult economic conditions faced by our revolution.

"We must also put in this framework the first steps toward an economic blockade against our country, with the famous $75 million loan; the suspension of the loan for the purchase of wheat and the intensive counterrevolutionary activity being carried out by the reactionary parties, which try to stage demonstrations and mobilizations to show the world that the revolutionary government is opposed by the popular masses rather than by an insignificant group of the political bourgeoisie."

"Also related is the imperialists' attempt to make the preparation abroad--which is clear and can be seen even by the blind--coincide with a convenient moment of crisis, a difficult period being faced by our economy, in order to justify the military element of their maneuvers, which would be a military aggression."

We Are in the Difficult Months

[Question] When could that happen?

[Answer] "That's hard to foretell but we believe they are very interested that it be as soon as possible because they know that the passing of time is in our favor since the revolution will become more consolidated, the army and the armed forces will gain greater strength and defensive capability, the state will grow, the economy will tend to stabilize and rise and the revolution will be bolstered."

"They know that in the future it will be harder to undertake an act of military aggression against our country and establish a provisional government with international support and the recognition of other countries and organizations which will justify the intervention.

"Thus we see these months, particularly April, May and June, as difficult months during which it is possible that the enemy will try in Nicaragua a corrected and improved version of "Giron," in order to defeat and annihilate the Sandinist people's revolution but to create a military situation, set up a political maneuver--the launching of the political platform of a provisional government--and immediately seek the recognition of certain nations and the involvement of greater forces which will make things difficult for us, but we are ready to respond firmly and crush them immediately."

We Will Defeat Any Adventure

"Under the circumstances, we are not speaking about an act of aggression in which U.S. Navy forces will be directly involved. That would be a different kind of conflict to which we would have to respond with a prolonged, people's warfare.

"I repeat that we are firmly convinced that we will defeat any adventure by reactionary, mercenary or former Somozist forces which are backed by some local armies.

"However, even if we defeat it, we must understand that the reactionary sectors will again try to obstruct the revolutionary advance, they will try to kill our leaders, they will try to sabotage production and so forth. In other words, we are going to face permanent confrontation and our revolution is going to face threats and tensions for many years. This will just be the first trial by fire but we are certain that we will come out the winner."

The Reactionaries and Imperialism Are Using Fear

[Question] What do you think of the ever increasing manipulation of the friendship between Cuba and Nicaragua by the international news agencies and the reactionary media?

[Answer] "It is obvious that one of the plans of imperialism and the turncoat bourgeoisie to justify any kind of aggression against our country is to manipulate and try to intimidate the people, as Somozism used to do, with the specter of communism and particularly with friendly nations such as Cuba."

"At the same time, to justify its aggressiveness toward our country, imperialism is portraying Nicaragua as the budding Red monster, as a nation headed toward communism, the nation that is going to extend it claws to the rest of Central America. That is being used to scare people off. They are even linking those campaigns to Cuba and the Soviet Union to try to convince the most backward nations that we are a satellite and part of a set of worldwide maneuvers engineered in Moscow and that instructions on what the Sandinist people's revolution is going to do come from Moscow or Havana. We don't deny to the world our friendship toward and identification with Cuba for the support that the Cuban people and government have given us in reconstructing our country or the enormous identification we have had since before the victory of the Cuban revolution. That is the kind of maneuver used by the reactionaries and the bourgeoisie in our countries as a way to neutralize all the people struggling for freedom and real economic independence to change century-old socioeconomic structures which have favored only the exploiters."

Our Army Is Superior Because It Belongs to the People

"In addition to that campaign, we have also been accused of involvement in a major arms race and it has been said that the United States cannot allow that because it supposedly breaks the equilibrium that has to be maintained as concerns the strength of the armies in the area.

"Undoubtedly it has been recognized and it was shown on 19 July that our people's guerrilla army has become a strong army, not so much due to the material technical resources it has, because these are limited, but from the standpoint of its quality.

"What has given strength to our army is the participation of the mass of the people in the tasks related to defense through the Sandinist People's Militias and in many combat units formed such as the reservists who are popular sectors linked to production who are given some military preparation. Therein lies the strength of our army which makes it superior to any army in the area.

"Our strength also lies in the fact that at any moment our army can become a large army with the participation of the people. This makes us superior. Imperialism is using that to intimidate the gorilla governments in Central America into believing that Nicaragua is going to be strong enough to attack them."

We Are Strengthening Our Army

"The current efforts we are making to strengthen our armed forces are aimed at defending our revolution and the steps we are taking toward that are fully justified in the eyes of the world because there is an obvious danger of aggression against our country. Have any plans by our army to invade their territory been revealed or have they seen Hondurans training in our country or leaving Nicaragua and crossing the border to fight the Honduran Army and then seeking refuge in Nicaragua again?

"There is no justification for that, except the justification we mentioned earlier to exert pressure so that political conditions can be set on our revolution as soon as there is in Central America a powerful army that can permanently hold a sword of Damocles over our heads so that whenever we don't toe the line we would run the risk that a military force of the Central American Defense Council might annihilate the Sandinist people's revolution."

We Prepare for Defense; They Prepare for Aggression

"In this sense I want to state that as a sovereign nation we have the right to organize our army and to strengthen our armed forces in view that all our preparation is based on the principle of defense of our fatherland. We are not preparing to invade or land troops. We are preparing to defend our territory while they, with the help of the United States, are preparing landing troops, paratroopers; that is, they prepare to attack other nations."

"We prepare for defense but they prepare for aggression. Furthermore, they seek proof that they will not find, so they have invented it. Our armed forces have a profoundly different content from those of other countries. While ours are based on the power of the people, the masses, the militias and the reserves, which are not permanently in arms and take up the rifles to defend the fatherland voluntarily, the other armies have to pursue the recruits to make them sign up by force."

They Are Trying To Isolate Us Internationally

[Question] In recent days it seems there has been an intensification of the campaign of information of the transnational news agencies which have once again highlighted the problem of the weapons in Costa Rica as well as mentioning Mexico and Panama. What can you say about this?

[Answer] "We have to understand this as part of the global maneuver of imperialism to try to isolate us internationally from traditional friends and the governments and parties that supported the Sandinist National Liberation Front in its struggle against the Somozist regime. Those malicious reports try to sell the idea that we have betrayed them, that we have become communists, that we will be moving to communism at any moment, that we have forgotten them, that we only used them to gain international prestige and so forth."

"Nothing can be more false than those lies. Instead, we have closer links with the Mexican people and government than we ever had before and with Panama we maintain and have maintained very close and fraternal relations."

"The position and relationship that other governments and peoples maintain regarding the Nicaraguan revolution has been essentially dependent on the changes in the domestic policy in those countries, as is the case of Costa Rica."

"For example, as more reactionary elements of Costa Rican politics have gained influence in the government, to that extent, there have been cool relations at some specific moments but as I said earlier, all of this is dependent on the political changes and situations of those countries. At no time has this been dependent on our position which continues to be an open one with those friends, always expressing our respect and gratefulness for all the support they gave to our struggle."

"In truth, imperialism is trying to set those countries against Nicaragua with the false idea that Nicaragua is the cause of the destabilization of all Central America and that if Nicaragua is not cut off at its roots, stability in the region cannot be guaranteed.

"That is why we don't rule out that imperialism might create some border problem or some trap regarding the Gulf of Fonseca or the Coco River which would appear as a broader conflict between two countries and not as a conflict with an essentially political content.

"They will try to isolate us internationally to impelemnt their aggressive policy against the revolution. Therefore, we should be ready to unmask them."

Picking Cotton With Rifles Cocked

[Question] What is the importance of the participation of the members of the armed forces in picking cotton?

[Answer] "First of all, we must point out that the main mission of the armed foorces is to watch over the defense of the revolution and the national sovereignty and that in the measure that this main mission--which is what gives meaning to the armed forces--is fulfilled, the armed forces can participate in other activities or essential tasks of the revolution which the National Directorate has defined as those involving production. The incorporation of thousands of armed forces members in the task of picking cotton in a disciplined and organized manner is a really important contribution to our process. The yield levels have been extremely high, much higher than what we expected. We believe this is important because they have incorporated themselves into the activities of the revolution in a concrete way and this helps the consolidation of the revolutionary conscience of our soldiers and officers."

"We have also been able to maintain a high level of combat readiness. In other words, they are not spread about in small groups in the plantations but have remained as in their own combat units, without losing their military structure, with their command post and permanent communication with the general headquarters, ready to fulfill with their weapons the mission they are assigned anywhere as part of the approved policy which we have termed 'year of defense and production.'"

"When these companeros finish picking cotton in 15 or 20 days they will come out morally and politically strengthened."

Aware of the Danger

[Question] Do you have a final message for the armed forces members?

"Yes. It is very important that all Sandinists who have jobs in the armed forces be truly aware of the imminent threat of an aggression against our revolution. It is possible that many people might be taken by surprise but not the armed forces."

"That is precisely the mission that we have been assigned and the possibilities that the aggression will occur are real just as our leaders have told us. We will be the first to enter into combat and, therefore, we cannot be taken by surprise at any time."

"Therefore, I ask the armed forces to be alert and to increase our efforts to deal a crushing blow quickly and annihilate in the first few hours of combat any military invasion of our country and in this way we prevent any political plan behind the invasion."

State Council President

LD131043 Brussels LE SOIR in French 10 Apr 91 p 3

[Jean-Paul Marthoz interview with Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the Nicaraguan State Council: "Major Nunez (Nicaragua): Our Revolution Is a Dangerous Example for Dictatorships"--date and place not given]

[Text] The Nicaraguan revolution is on the alert. In an interview granted to LE SOIR, Maj [as published; Commander of the Revolution] Carlos Nunez Tellez, chairman of the State Council and one of the nine Sandinist Front National Directorate members, picked out the various groups and governments trying to overthrow the Mangua regime.

"The Central American countries with despotic regimes think that Nicaragua is a dangerous example which subverts their social order," Mr Nunez explained, "because they have not succeeded in solving their economic and social problems."

In Guatemala Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia's military dictatorship is clearly showing its hostility to the Nicaraguan Government. "Geopolitical interests force the Guatemalan Government to adopt a policy which rules out any improvement in realtions with Nicaragua," Major Nunez continued. "The situation in Honduras is not so clear-cut. It is sections of the army and not the government as such which advocate an aggressive policy."

The Nicaraguan authorities are chiefly worried by the presence in Central America and especially in Honduras of several thousand former Somozist national guards men who are spoiling for a fight with the new regime. "We have informed the Honduran Government of the existence of 14 locations where the national guardsmen are assembled. But so far no steps have been taken. Where are the guardsmen getting their weapons, and who is supplying them with food," the Sandinist major asked.

For months the border region with Honduras has suffered repeated attacks from armed gangs linked with the former regime. The half-pay officers in Anastasio Somoza's praetorian guard--those who were known as "the dynasty guards"--are thus serving thoughout Central America as the spearhead for the counteroffensive launched by the extreme right against the revolutionary movements (in December national guardsmen took part in the struggle against the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrillas in El Salvador) and against the Sandinist government. It was also Somozist guards who perpetrated several attacks on the Noticias del Continente radio station in Costa Rica--a radio station which was annoying all military regimes in Latin America.

Miami, Florida's capital [as published] is a focal point for counterrevolution, as it was in the initial days of the Castro regime in Havana. "There you can find sections of the National Guard, former top dignitaries in the Somoza regime who have commerical enterprises there, and the 'gusanos'" (Cubans hostile to Castro), Mr Vunez explained.

Terrorist groups from the Cuban community have been involved in all the armed actions taken by the Latin American counterinsurrectionists. In the past several months Omega 7, the most active of the anti-Castro movements, has resumed its sabotage activities inside Cuba and its attacks on supporters of the Castroist revolution in the United States. Pushing back "communism" in Central America is, however, another of their priorities. Former Somozist national guardsmen are training in camps near Miami in the company of anti-Castro Cuban militants. When the Managua government expressed official concern about these military preparations on U.S. territory, it was told that the U.S. Government could do nothing because the training was taking place on private property.

The resurgence of the extreme right's activities in Central America and the Caribbean is not unconnected with Ronald Reagan's victory, since it feels somehow "supported" by the new U.S. administration. Following the U.S. intervention in El Salvador, Nicaragua is therefore a target. "The suspension of food aid has increased our people's anti-American feeling," Mr Nunez explained, "because U.S. policy is aimed at destroying our revolution."

Nicaragua has reacted in two ways to the increasing outside threats. When the government junta was reshuffled in March the Sandinist regime decided to send economist Arturo Cruz to Washington as the new ambassador. This technocrat who has moderate political views was for several years a senior official with the Inter-American Development Bank in the U.S. capital, where he has excellent relations with people inside the political and financial establishment. "Arturo Cruz's appointment," Maj Carlos Nunez told us, "shows our desire to improve our relations with the United States."

In addition to this conciliatory attitude, the Nicaraguan Government is pursuing a more intensive policy of military consolidation, with the formation of Sandinist People's Militia intended to be integrated into the regular army should there be a military escalation. We were able to watch the militia training in March: They were armed with old and inefficient weapons but were highly motivated and were reminiscent of Sandino's crazy little army which cocked a snook at the U.S. marines sent by President Coolidge between the two wars.

JOURNALIST: LINKAGE IN INVASIONS OF NICARAGUA, POLAND

PA131630 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] A member of the editorial staff of the newspaper LA PRENSA of Managua said yesterday in an article that the possibilities of a U.S. intervention in Nicaragua will increase if the USSR occupies Poland.

In an extensive analysis of the situation in our country, Humberto Veliz, a counselor of the LA PRENSA board of directors, says that Nicaragua is running the risk of an intervention. However, he adds that this risk has many conditional aspects.

Veliz says that the United States and its allies in Central America will start thinking about the possibility of an intervention in Nicaragua if they feel that the Nicaraguan revolution is destabilizing the area and creating problems for the governments. In other words, the possibilities of an intervention will increase if they consider Nicaragua to be a real menace. What the other Central American governments think of our government will be a determining factor in the actions of the United States.

Veliz analyzes the country's most serious problems, particularly the economic ones, and suggests that Nicaraguans are the ones who have the answer to these problems.

NONALIGNED FISHING COOPERATION MEETING ENDS

FL111412 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Text] The third meeting for cooperation in the area of fishing of the nonaligned and other developing countries which sat for 3 days in this capital has ended with the approval of the final document. Ministers, high-ranking fishing officials and representatives from more than 50 participating countries underscored the implementation of a fishing action program as proposed at the sixth nonaligned summit meeting held here in Havana.

The plenary session recommended appointing a group of experts to study the possibilities for multinational enterprises to be set up at an opportune time. Cuba will be one of the group's members. The session also agreed to strengthen ties in the area of fishing considering its importance in increasing food resources for peoples at a time when imperialism utilizes food as a political weapon against developing nations. The session also decided to request the financial assistance of the FAO and the UN development program to hold meetings at the level of experts to help carry out the recommended actions.

HAVANA CITES U.S. ANGER AT MEXICO-CUBA FRIENDSHIP

PA111358 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 10 Apr 81

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The present U.S. regime, identified from its beginning by an unequalled aggressiveness against the revolutionary and progressive forces of all the world, is irked because another government, the Mexican Government, lies close to its border and yet does not accept or approve of imperialist dictates from Washington.

The United States is irked at the friendly relations between Mexico and Cuba, its support for the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, its Third World nonaligned activities and its firm rejection of foreign interference in the Salvadoran conflict.

On more than one occasion Mexico has expressed its rejection of the vast military aid given by Washington to the genocidal Salvadoran regime.

The U.S. regime is also concerned at Mexico's well-known opposition to the fascist military dictatorships existing on the continent with U.S. protection. Today more than ever they are encouraged by the extreme reactionary policies of the new White House tenant.

It is not only Mexico's foreign policy that irks the U.S. imperialists. Washington would like to control Mexico's oil, which the Mexican Government is using for the benefit of its people and of Latin American nations lacking this vital resource. This is why U.S. pressures against Mexico are almost constant and are expressed by the massive deportation of undocumented Mexican workers, capture of fishing vessels, suspension of some imports and many other acts.

The pressure, according the Mexican press circles and political sectors, is also expressed by the 1981 Border Star military exercises just held by the United States with over 20,000 troops. Broad political, social and press sector in Mexico expressed their protests at these maneuvers, held only 35 (?miles) from their border, and especially rejected the statements of the maneuvers' official spokesman, Lt Col Richard (Bodry), who said that U.S. Armed Forces (?could enter Mexican or Canadian territory because they are familiar with the terrain.

The Mexican sectors agreed that these military maneuvers are for intimidation related to the meeting scheduled for this month between President Jose Lopez Portillo and Ronald Reagan.

Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, spokesman of the Socialist Peoples Party, said the Border Star maneuvers were clearly to intimidate Mexico. This opinion was also shared by Angel Bravo Cisneros, spokesman of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, who said the maneuvers were an expression of the aggressive policy implemented by the United States to frighten the peoples in the region.

This is an insulting, aggressive action, said Deputy Santiago Ferro of the leftist coalition headed by the Mexican Communist Party, speaking of the maneuvers. However, the United States will harvest newer and greater failures if it thinks that with Solid Shield, Black Hawk, Border Star or any other military maneuver it can scare the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean fighting for their freedom, national independence and sovereignty. Times have changed, regardless of what imperialism may think, and fear of Yankee gunboats will not compel the Latin American nations to accept Washington's neocolonial domination.

PRELIMINARY COOPERATION TALKS HELD WITH ALGERIA

FL131747 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] The minutes covering preliminary talks for the meeting of experts of the second joint Cuban-Algerian committee have been signed in our capital by officials from the two countries. (Aomar Sebay), director of Algeria's Light Industry Ministry, signed for Algeria. Ramon Soto Recio, director for Africa and Asia at the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, signed for Cuba.

Scientific-technical cooperation in the areas of light industry, foodstuffs, construction materials and others was discussed at the talks.

BRIEFS

STATUS OF POWERPLANT--Party Politburo members Guillermo Garcia, Pedro Miret and Jorge Risquet have chaired a meeting held in Cienfuegos to examine the construction status of Cuba's first nuclear powerplant being built in that province. The construction yard, which is one of the principal projects, and various social facilities for the Soviet advisers and Cuban personnel who will be working on the project are under construction. It became evident that it is necessary to urgently carry out and conclude the recruitment of skilled personnel at various provinces to work on the project, one of the most complex under construction in this country. About 7,000 builders will be required at the peak period of construction and installation of the plant. The powerplant initially will deliver about 880 megawatts from its two nuclear reactors. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 81 FL]

MAY DAY DELEGATIONS--A total of 120 delegations from 90 countries will participate in the activities being organized to celebrate 1 May, which this year will be commemorated with a militant people's march. Jesus Escandel, member of the Secretariat of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], made the announcement at a news conference. The foreign delegations will begin arriving in Havana on 28 April. He also announced that 30 CTC delegations will attend 1 May celebrations in various countries. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1411 GMT 10 Apr 81 FL]

MAN IN SPACE ANNIVERSARY--The 20th anniversary of man's first flight into space has been marked at a ceremony held at the Cuban Academy of Sciences [ACC] in Havana. Speaking for Soviet cosmonauts, Oleg Makarov thanked the academy for hosting the celebration and said that to date 58 men from several countries have visited the cosmos. Cuban cosmonaut Arnaldo Tamayo also spoke on the importance of man's first flight into space. ACC President Wilfredo Torres recalled in his closing address Yuriy Gagarin's exploit on 12 April 1961. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Apr 81 FL]

BARBADOS

PRIME MINISTER ADAMS RETURNS FROM EUROPE

FL131112 Bridgetown CANA in English 0007 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Barbados, 12 Apr (CANA)--Barbados' Prime Minister Mr Tom Adams returned home tonight from London, after attending last week's board of governors meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Madrid, Spain.

Mr Adams was also expected to discuss with IDF officials an energy plan for Barbados.

PAPER QUESTIONS TRINIDAD'S NEW CURRENCY POLICY

FL081637 Bridgetown CANA in English 1628 GMT 8 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Bridgetown, Barbados, 8 Apr (CANA)--The Barbados ADVOCATE-NEWS, in an editorial today said it was puzzled at Trinidad and Tobago's decision not to accept further repatriation of its currency from Barbados. The Trinidad Central Bank decision, which follows the death 10 days ago of Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, was communicated to Barbadians Monday--24 hours before it was due to become effective. There was no explanation.

The ADVOCATE-NEWS said there was speculation that following Dr Williams death there might be plans to revalue the country's currency. Dr Williams death could also have "triggered a panic among Trinidadians who fear a return to the pervasive pre-Williams pattern of corruption and they are getting their money out as best they can", the editorial suggested.

The paper went on: "Whatever the reasons... the fact that Trinidad and Tobago has had to resort to such a move points up the fragility of the trading links binding the Caribbean units together and the fact that no matter how individual the unit territories try to be, their economic fates are collectively intertwined."

The Barbados daily noted that Trinidad and Tobago--with its vast petroleum reserves--was the richest member state of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and one of Barbados' main trading partners. "It is on this score that a puzzle arises about the reasons for the move", the paper added.

A similar uncertainty, the paper said, applied to at least two big Barbados-Trinidad and Tobago joint venture projects--a cargo airline which started operations this year and a cement plant to be constructed here beginning shortly.

"Will the mysterious economic situation that constrained Trinidad and Tobago to stop accepting their own currency notes affect these two important projects? And what further implications does Trinidad and Tobago's action have for Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean", the ADVOCATE-NEWS asked.

DOMINICA

PRIME MINISTER EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY

PA130312 Paris AFP in Spanish 2142 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Georgetown, 12 Apr (AFP)--Dominican Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has extended the state of emergency in effect in the Caribbean island for the past 2 months, radio reports monitored in the Guyanese capital indicated today.

The state of emergency was established as a result of the kidnapping of 56-year-old farmer Lennox Honychurch on 12 February by a group of religious fanatics of the Rastafarian sect. This group demands that the government release several fellow sect members who have been imprisoned and condemned to death by the local courts. Charles charged that the kidnapping of Honychurch was part of a subversive plan organized abroad. At the same time, the police arrested Dominican political and military personalities.

The radio reports monitored in the Guyanese capital from Roseau indicated that the government has been unable to determine whether Honychurch is alive or dead after being held 2 months by his kidnappers.

The Dominican Government has systematically refused to negotiate with the Rastafarian kidnappers. Dominica is in the Lesser Antilles, between the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

GRENADA

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES RALLY AT AIRPORT SITE

FL132356 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Excerpts] The people of Grenada must be conscious of the assistance given to this country by countries of Western Europe, and the presence yesterday of thousands of Grenadians at the site of the international airport is an indication that Grenadians do appreciate this assistance.

Addressing a mass rally at the airport site yesterday, Prime Minister Bishop said that the European countries did not follow a policy of aggression like the United States and are more inclined to peace.

[Begin recording] We have to be grateful for that because it has meant that the European Economic Commission has over the years consistently given support not just to countries like Grenada, but to our sisters and brothers in Ethiopia, in Mozambique, in Angola, in Yemen, in Madagascar, in Benin, in Sao Tome. In all of these countries and countries like that, the EEC has been rendering valuable economic assistance. All countries have seen the benefits of EEC assistance. [end recording]

Prime Minister Bishop said that it is a victory for Grenada over imperialism that despite intense diplomatic pressures from the United States, so many countries and organizations are attending the co-financing meeting in Brussels. The meeting is expected to begin tomorrow morning. Prime Minister Bishop also used yesterday to urge Grenadians to continue to work hard to ensure that the airport, once a dream, becomes a reality.

[Begin recording] We must use this opportunity to build our economy even stronger, to prepare the economy for the day when the airport is (?realized) so that we will know we will have enough produce, and enough fish, and enough furniture and enough handicrafts that we can use to sell once that airport gets fully on [word indistinct]. We must use this occasion too as a reminder of the need to be vigilant (?and) to continue, therefore, to build our people's militia so that in any situation where we are called upon to defend our country and our process, our people will be able to (?do that) themselves. This occasion must also give us the opportunity of establishing a (?broad-based) national airport development committee. We must use this opportunity to form such a national airport committee that will be comprised of all of the organizations of our country, that will seek in a national way and at the national level the utmost funds for the airport, organize more fund-raising activities, that will sell more bonds, that will discuss every aspect of the airport project and the progress [words indistinct] to dream of their own international airport. [end recording]

Looking back at previous attempts to stifle Grenada, the prime minister referred to the attempts to stop LIAT [regionally owned airline] from travelling to Grenada, to stop access to Eastern Caribbean currency, to block hurricane relief assistance to Grenada and the fishing piracy in Grenada's waters. He also spoke of the continuing illegal spy flights over Grenada and the aggressive military maneuvers in neighboring islands.

Coard Denies Military Use

FL132114 Bridgetown CANA in English 1824 GMT 13 Apr 81

[By Charles Lambelin]

[Text] Brussels, 13 Apr (CANA-REUTER)--Grenada today dismissed U.S. suggestions that an international airport being built on the Caribbean island could be used for military purposes by the Soviet Union or Cuba. The island's deputy prime minister and finance minister, Bernard Coard, told a news conference the project was aimed essentially at developing tourism.

The European Common Market's commission has helped to organize a pledging conference to appeal for 30 million dollars in aid for the airport. But the U.S. has criticized the project and EEC members states have decided to boycott the meeting, which starts in Brussels tomorrow.

Mr Coard said he was sure the Sovet Union and Cuba would not mind providing the money if the airport was planned as a military base as claimed in the U.S. He also denied that it might be used by Cuba as a staging post to Africa, saying that Havana had transported more than 20,000 troops to Angola in 1976 long before any sizeable airport existed in Grenada.

He said Washington's criticism of the airport was part of a wider campaign against progressive governments, as witnessed by the cutting off of food aid to Mozambique, withdrawing of aid to Nicaragua and arms deliveries to the military junta in El Salvador.

Sweden, Syria, Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Venezuela, Nigeria, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Iraqi Fund, the World Bank and the Caribbean Development Fund, are attending tomorrow's pledging conference, Mr Coard said. But Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Italy, who were invited, have indicated that the EEC will represent them and report to them.

Mr Coard said the number of Cubans minding heavy equipment for the first stage of the airport construction--a 5,000-foot airstrip to be completed by the end of the year--has never exceeded 200, less than a quarter of the number of U.S. residents on the island.

"We are very disturbed by the very open and very vulgar attempt by the U.S. to pressure the Europeans into not attending the co-financing conference," Mr Coard said.

JAMAICA

SEAGA SAYS RELATIONS WITH CUBA IN 'COLD STORAGE'

FL132215 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Apr 81 p 1

[Excerpts] Relations between Jamaica and Cuba which were put "in cold storage" on the triumph of the Jamaica Labor Party in the general election last October, will remain cool for sometime, according to Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

In an interview with the monthly newsletter, INSIGHT, published in London on 1 April, Mr Seaga said that Jamaica "will not be jumping off into a new or normal relationship with Cuba." The interview was conducted late March at Jamaica House by the newsletter's editor and local correspondent.

Asked about the future of relations with Cuba, Seaga said "future relations with Cuba are currently on the basis of watching their conduct. We remember only too vividly their behavior during the course of the Manley regime. We are not willing to jump off into any new or normal relationship. We are watching to see if they so conduct themselves that normal diplomatic relationships are possible."

Elaborating on Jamaica's role in the Caribbean, Mr Seaga made it clear that any improvements in relations with Cuba will not only be determined by her attitude to Jamaica but to the whole region.

He said that Havana's interference in El Salvador and Colombia will not help us to believe that she has abandoned her expansionist role. He said that a threat to any Latin American country by Cuba must be seen as a threat to Jamaica in terms of Cuban expansionism. This, he said, was due to past experiences by Jamaica.

Touching on other Caribbean matters, Mr Seaga said Grenada cannot expect to be treated the same way as other members of the Commonwealth Caribbean. The treatment, he said, is based on the fact that the "route taken to cleanse the corrupt situation there was not to correct one: Grenada cannot expect to be considered a country which will enjoy normal relations with us until it takes steps to have free and fair elections."

Seaga said that the matter of bringing Grenada to heel for her behavior will be left to Grenadians, at least for the time being. He thinks a communication system where leaders of the region start to talk to each other more frequently will have to be in place before a unified Caribbean policy can emerge.

On relations with Guyana, Mr Seaga was less harsh than with Grenada. He said there have been accusations about irregularities in the last election in Guyana but until it can be proven, the situation will remain the same.

Overall, Prime Minister Seaga said he saw a strong leadership role for Jamaica in the Caribbean. This role he said, will help to forge a strong link against Cuba and socialist expansionism in the region.

GOVERNMENT TO REMOVE ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS

FL132126 Bridgetown CANA in English 1851 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, 13 Apr (CANA)--The Jamaica Government is to remove restrictions which aim at placing the state in control of the economy and have the effect of stifling competition, Prime Minister Edward Seaga has said. Seaga--an advocate of free enterprise--made the announcement at a Jamaica Exporters Association dinner (JEA) climaxing celebrations of national exporters week.

The prime minister did not list the measures to be abolished, but did indicate that there would be an end to the need for licenses to import certain items. He hinted that shortages of a number of commodities and the thriving black-market would end, while production costs would be lowered. The whole package would unfold in a series of policy statements, he said.

Said Mr Seaga: "We entangle ourselves by restrictions, by unnecessary regulations... restrictions and regulations which were framed against a certain ideological and philosophical background for the purpose of putting the state in some controlling position. It is the intention of this government to begin a process of deregulating the economy, to untie many of the knots which bind us by one policy or the other in such a fashion that the free reins of competition cannot rule, the law of supply and demand cannot take root."

He added: "It is these measures of restrictions, by policy or otherwise, that foment blackmarkets of the country. The inefficiencies of the country, the high production cost of the country, and... a dependency on the state instead of the private initiative of the individual business."

There were some who would not like the new measures, as several businessmen preferred the term "protection" to "competition", Mr Seaga said. But too often protection meant the right to produce goods that were not of the highest quality and at costs above what the market price ought to be, he said. It was through competition that the true market forces would come into play, leading the country to produce what it could best, and to earn the foreign exchange to purchase what could be produced properly or economically, he added.

ST LUCIA

PARTY RIFT FURTHER EXPOSED IN BUDGET DEBATE

FL110026 Bridgetown CANA in English 0003 GMT 11 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Castries, St Lucia, 10 Apr (CANA)--The rift within the ruling Saint Lucia Labor Party Government was again exposed today, the 2d day of debate on the administration's dollars [as received] 206.9 million dollar (EC) budget in the House of Assembly.

Prime Minister Allan Louisy, openly opposed by some cabinet members, sat quietly throughout the day's proceedings as members of the faction supporting Foreign Minister George Odlum, questioned whether the government (?had) the political will to implement the budgets provisions. Speakers stressed the need for patching up the wounds in the divided government.

At one point Communications and Works Minister Kenneth Foster interrupted Agriculture Minister Peter Josie to ask whether the prime minister was on trial in the house. But he was overruled by the speaker who said he had allowed all members a fair measure of latitude.

Up to midafternoon, there was still no indication whether the five-member Odlum faction would vote against the budget--a move which would result in the government's defeat and early general elections. Odlum has announced his intention to launch a new political party in an effort to resolve 20 months of internal bickering within the government over its leadership.

Both Josie and Industry Planning and Development Minister [as received; Minister of State] Mike Pilgrim said the budget was a good one but questioned the political will of the government, and Louisy in particular, to implement its provisions.

Agriculture Minister Josie accused Louisy of lack of courage in taking important decisions affect the welfare of St Lucians. He also questioned the political will of the government to take important decisions saying that there seemed a disinterest by the government as to how the economy should move.

The debate continues on Monday.

ST VINCENT

PRIME MINISTER MILTON CATO VISITING U.S.

FL[illegible]08 Bridgetown CANA in English 2142 GMT 13 Apr 81

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, 13 Apr (CANA)--St Vincent's prime minister, Milton Cato, is now in the United States on a week-long visit, the government information service here has announced. Since arriving there Mr Cato opened his country's diplomatic mission in New York.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT CLAMPS DOWN ON ILLEGAL EXPORT OF CURRENCY

FL081908 Bridgetown CANA in English 1855 GMT 8 Apr 81

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 8 Apr (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago has clamped down on the illegal export of its currency which the Central Bank says has increased substantially in recent years. In a statement to the media, the Central Bank said that local currency will not be accepted outside of Trinidad and Tobago, as of 1 April.

The bank said it took the decision in view of a sharp increase in the amount of Trinidad and Tobago dollars being repatriated to the country. (National currency spent abroad has to be redeemed by a country in exchange for the equivalent amount in acceptable foreign exchange). The bank disclosed that within a 4-year period, Trinidad and Tobago currency sent back annually had risen from seven million dollars to 26 million dollars last year (1 TT dollar; 41 cents US).

The Trinidad and Tobago notes therefore now have the status of being illegal tender outside of Trinidad and Tobago.

The full release from the bank said:

"The Central Bank of Trinidan and Tobago wishes to advice that effective 1 April 1981, it will cease accepting Trinidad and Tobago notes repatriated from overseas.

"Prior to this date the bank had extended the facility of repatriation on a mutual basis to the monetary authorities in the CARICOM states.

"Trinidad and Tobago currency notes are not accepted from the CARICOM region or from the public in CARICOM states.

"The decision to discontinue currency repatriation completely has been taken in view of the unusually rapid growth in the volume and value of currency notes being repatriated and because proper arrangements now exist whereby the needs of travelers in the region can be met by the use of CARICOM travelers-cheques. (Such cheques, in TT currency and backed by the Central Bank here, are available in all the Caribbean Community States.

"The legitimate needs of residents of Trinidad and Tobago for travel purposes and of other travelers in the region will not be adversely affected by this change in policy.

"The provision whereby travelers may take out of Trinidad and Tobago not more than 50 dollars in Trinidad and Tobago currency notes on their person or in their baggage remains in force. Travelers are reminded that this amount is intended to be used for incidental expenses on reentry to Trinidad and Tobago and not for spending abroad.

"Visitors to Trinidad and Tobago who find themselves in possession of unused Trinidad and Tobago currency at the end of their visit are to change such notes for foreign currency at the bureau-de-change at Piarco International Airport.

"In order to repurchase foreign currency, visitors would normally be expected to present the receipt issued at the time of purchase of Trinidad and Tobago currency notes.

"Commercial banks in the CARICOM have already been advised by their monetary authorities of this new policy," the released ended.

BURNHAM RESPONDS TO VENEZUELAN TERRITORIAL CLAIM

FL082151 Bridgetown CANA in English 2132 GMT 8 Apr 81

[By Sharief Khan]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 8 Apr (CANA)--President Forbes Burnham, responding firmly to stepped-up Venezuelan claims to 5/8 of Guyana's 83,000 square miles, today said he would prepare Guyanese to defend their land, but left the way open for continuing discussions on the dispute.

"Short of war I do not see why we should not have discussions." he told reporters here.

"This is not a time to be agitated...this is a time to be cool and plan our moves," the president told fellow Guyanese.

Burnham said his government would begin a national program to "educate all Guyanese in detail" on the issue and added that a recently-established regional government system here was part of "our program of fully occupying and holding all of the territory that is ours."

He indicated he would also be discussing the matter with Dr Cheddi Jagan, leader of the main opposition People's Progressive Party, and hinted at discussing it with Caribbean heads of states.

Burnham said Guyana had not asked for external "military or physical support" but did not rule out that possibility. "We are going to strengthen our resources...not for aggressive purposes but to defend what is ours" he said.

"The principal help we envisage and seek is an informing of international public opinion... so that the world can see and understand (that) here is a (young and small) country whose (larger and rich) neighbor seeks to rob it of 5/8 of its territory."

Burnham visited Venezuela last week for talks with President Herrera Campins on the border dispute and after he returned home, Venezuela Sunday issued a (?statement) reiterating its claim to the territory, rejecting an extension to the Port-of-Spain Protocol and rejecting Guyana's proposed hydroelectric project in part of the disputed territory.

Burnham said that the statement was issued without "previous notice" and that it "seeks to apply pressure upon us by openly opposing for the first time our upper Mazaruni hydroelectric project." He said the statement appeared "somewhat more negative than the tone and temper of our talks in Venezuela." "The talks were generally frank, cordial and open. Generally we agreed that there should be further consultations within the context of the legal instruments which relate to our frontiers."

He felt the Venezuelan statement "technically" breached the Port-of-Spain Protocol and said that there was nothing that precluded Guyana from developing any part of her territory, including the disputed portion. "Guyana therefore intends to intensify her efforts to bring (the hydro) project to fruition," he said and declared: "We will pursue it and it will be completed in my time and in my term or terms of office."

Burnham said Venezuela's rejection of the project did not worry him. "We are not, I repeat not worried with respect to the hydropower project. It adds a new dimension and [words indistinct] situation for us."

He said Guyana [words indistinct] in "very active discussions with a number of would-be smelter partners," and it had identified sources of possible funding. Burnham said Guyana was also going ahead with its oil exploration in the Rupununi, another part of the land claimed by Venezuela.

He reiterated Guyana's rejection of the Venezuelan claims calling them "fallacious" and based on a "calumny of the dead." "It is entirely a matter for Venezuela to decide whether she will terminate the protocol of (Port-of-Spain). But this government does have some say over the course to be pursued when the protocol comes to an end. We would hope that the exploration of the problem will continue to develop, as it has been developing under the protocol, in a climate of friendship, understanding and cooperation. To those honorable ends I pledge this government. I would sincerely like to think the same applies to the Government of Venezuela."

Under a 1966 (?Geneva) agreement the two countries could choose to peacefully settle the dispute by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements "or other peaceful means of settlement chosen by the parties."

U.S., UK Concern

PA130328 Paris AFP in Spanish 2213 GMT 12 Apr 81

[Text] Georgetown, 12 Apr (AFP)--The United States and Great Britain are viewing with concern Venezuela's hardening in its border dispute with Guyana, according to an editorial in the Guyanese SUNDAY CHRONICLE.

The newspaper reported that the Venezuelan decision not to extend the Port-of-Spain Protocol which will be in force until 1982 "went over like a lead balloon in Western diplomatic circles" in Georgetown.

"The diplomatic impact of the Venezuelan decision was even greater because our neighbor also rejected $1 billion for a hydroelectric project in Mazaruni River, in Essequibo," the editorial adds.

Venezuela claims 159,000 square km from Guyana which has a total area of 214,970 square km and the territory claimed by the Venezuelans since Guyana was a British colony lies west of the Essequibo River.

According to the editorial, the Venezuelan position on the protocol was preceded by a diplomatic offensive by the authorities of Caracas and other Latin American capitals against Cuba, the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement of which Guyana is also an active member.

The Georgetown paper adds that the Western nations want the region to be an area of peace and the border disputes to be solved without political tension.

In Port-of-Spain, capital of Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Guyana and Great Britain signed a protocol to freeze Venezuela's territorial claim for 12 years and the deadline runs out in 1982.